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# *MEDIA ADVISORY*

Louisiana  
Department of State



Al Ater  
Secretary of State

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## **SECRETARY ATER URGES ORLEANS' VOTERS TO ATTEND SATURDAY TRAINING CLASS TO SERVE AS POLL COMMISSIONERS**

BATON ROUGE, LA –Secretary of State Al Ater is urging Orleans' registered voters to attend the Saturday, March 11, Commissioner School to train to serve as poll commissioners on election day. The Saturday class will be the last opportunity for Orleans Parish to recruit and train poll commissioners for the April 22 municipal election.

The Commissioner School will be held Saturday, March 11, at the Jewish Community Center at 5342 St. Charles Avenue. The first school will be at 8:00 a.m., the second at 10:30 a.m., and the third at 1:00 p.m. To register for the class, registered voters of Orleans may call the Orleans Criminal Clerk of Court's office at (504) 827-3520, but pre-registration is not required.

To qualify as a poll commissioner and work during an election, a registered voter must attend a training class.

"We want Orleans Parish to be able to conduct its own elections to the best of its ability," Ater said. "The biggest need right now in preparing for the election is the recruitment and training of Orleans' registered voters to serve as poll commissioners on election day. We don't want to have to bring in poll commissioners from other parishes to work on election day, but it looks like we will have to if the people of Orleans don't step up to train and serve."

As of this week, 207 people that previously served as poll commissioners have been re-certified to serve. An additional 875 registered voters have qualified and were trained for the first time for a total of 1082 commissioners. Elections officials will need 1610 poll commissioners ready to work on election day, which means 528 commissioners are still needed.

"The clerks of court and the people in the surrounding parishes have been very generous with their offers to work to assist Orleans in conducting its first election since the devastating hurricanes of 2005," Ater said. "I just think it's important during this rebuilding process that the people of Orleans prove to the rest of the state that they are willing to help themselves as much as they can. A big part of that is training to serve as poll commissioners so they can help in conducting their own elections to the best of their ability."

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